

Story County Conservation Board Retreat
Wednesday, June 9, 2010, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
McFarland Park 56461 – 180th St., Ames, Iowa

Ground Rules

No specific personnel discussions, 3-minute speaking “rule”, speak frankly, no attacks,

Background Information

Each operational effort grew out of a new need as it developed.

Steve walked the group through each of the 6 operational areas.

IRVM is administrated by SCCB, but from a budget standpoint, it is funded differently.

There is currently no chain of command in the absence of a director. Personnel and policy decisions would be handled by the board chair.

Plus/Delta

PLUS:
Image is outstanding among Story County citizens.

DELTA:
Image is shaky among Story County citizens and staff.

PLUS:
Story County highly-regarded among conservation organization.

DELTA: Feedback loop/communication vehicle to SCC.

PLUS: W/in administration, we have a good level of cross-training, and others will pick up when necessary and help.

PLUS: Staff is highly-qualified, capable and experienced.

PLUS: EE is probably the face of conservation to people in the county more than our other programs. It's been VERY positively received.

DELTA: Demand for EE is very high and we don't have enough resources for it.

DELTA: Salaries are not where they should be.

PLUS: Strong volunteer base.

PLUS: Staff is incredibly resourceful on all fronts.

PLUS: IRVM maintains a large conservation support. Within the state, our program remains very strong on conservation. Good relationship with county engineer's office.

DELTA: Do we provide enough continuing education and training? Do we need to work on a county-wide basis?

DELTA: Do we need to do some internal training? (continuing excellence)

DELTA: Mission statement review.

DELTA: Need for improving the connection between the areas we manage and the local constituency.

DELTA: Re-organization might free-up resources for our to-do list.

PLUS: We have a long-range plan.

DELTA: We need to update the LRP.

DELTA: Need for a back-up contact in director's absence? Need to consider creating a back-up person in a more permanent capacity.

DELTA: Deterioration of physical property. Aging out of equipment and facilities. Expectations of user-base versus usability of equipment/facilities.

DELTA: Defining the organizations w/in and adjacent to SCC and how it will intercede into a foundation someday.

PLUS: We have many active partners or groups from whom we get regular input.

DELTA: Improve walking trail aspects of Hickory Grove and other properties.

DELTA: Improved signage on all SCC properties, as well as directional signage to the properties.

DELTA: Communication.

PLUS: SCC has tried using surveys to assess public needs/wants.

GROUPS to speak to:

- 1) Programming (teachers/Scout masters)
 - a. Jerry & Steve
- 2) Campers (ask programming questions)
 - a. Glen and Marilyn Harris (291-2437) Erin
- 3) Hunting/Fishing
 - a. State DNR registry (PF,DU,WU,Ames Anglers, IKES) Erin
- 4) Trail users/Skunk River paddlers
 - a. Carol Williams
- 5) Staff
- 6) Partners/Trails volunteers
 - a. Carol Williams
- 7) Parents 7
 - a. Erin
- 8) Non-users

Recording Secretary

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